

24. The substrate according to claim 15, wherein the ion-exchange agent has a stable zeolite, cage-like structure.

25. The substrate according to claim 12, wherein the ion-exchange agent has an ion-exchange capacity of about 30 meq/100g dry weight.

A2 26. The substrate according to claim 12, wherein the ion-exchange agent has an ion-exchange capacity of about 40 meq/100g dry weight.

27. The substrate according to claim 18, wherein the organic substance is selected from the group consisting of sphagnum and peat.--

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

After the claims, please insert a page containing the Abstract Of The Disclosure, which is attached hereto as a separately typed page.

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to place it into conformance with standard United States Patent practice.

Under date of October 19, 2000, Applicants submitted a substitute sheet containing amended claim 1 for the above-identified PCT application. Original claims 1-11 and amended claim 1 have been canceled by this Preliminary Amendment and rewritten as new claims 12-27 to eliminate the multiple dependencies and to bring the claims into conformance with standard United States Patent practice.

An Abstract Of The Disclosure has been added as a separately typed page to be inserted after the claims.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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